

TONIO BORG

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 28. 01. 2014

Dear Mr Panella,

Thank you for your letter of 13 December 2013 highlighting your concerns related to the active substance cyantraniliprole and its risk to bees.

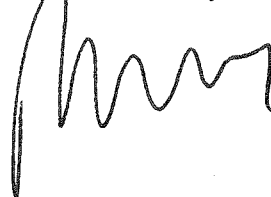
A dossier for the approval of cyantraniliprole as active substance for the use in plant protection product was submitted in 2011 in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. The dossier is now under evaluation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and for the moment no authorisations are in place in the European Union.

Once the risk assessment will be finalised, the Commission will take a decision on approval or non-approval of this substance, that will satisfy the high standards for safety of human and animal health and the environment laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. I would like to reassure you that in this framework the Commission will take your comments in consideration. Moreover, I understand that EFSA has also received your comments.

Bees are not only an important economic factor in the production of fruits and vegetables, they also play an important ecological and cultural role in Europe. They therefore take a prominent place on my agenda as Commissioner for Health.

Recently, the Commission has taken a number of actions to protect bees and to better understand the factors that influence bee health and I can reassure you that the Commission remains committed to efficient protection of bees, based on a sound scientific characterization of possible risks.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Francesco Panella
President for Bee Life European Beekeeping Coordination
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